

To: Senator LeBeau
Representative Berger
Members of the Commerce Committee

Date: March 9, 2012

Re: Support for House Bill 5466 – An Act Concerning Social Enterprise Businesses

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5466. As an employee of The Walker Group, a successful and early adopter of the Social Enterprise model, I get to talk to business associates every day about our company, its structure, and core values. When I relate the story, people from widely varying backgrounds and political persuasions are nearly unanimous in their support of Social Enterprise as a “better way of doing business”.

I am the father of four adult children, and want them to have as much opportunity as possible in Connecticut to choose a career path that not only allows them to do well, but to also do good. This legislation will allow Connecticut to become a hub of Social Enterprise development, creating good paying, sustainable jobs, and preventing the flight of some of the state’s most talented young people after graduation, as they seek to establish themselves in fulfilling careers.

The fact that Social Enterprises contribute a significant portion of their distributed profits to helping solve community problems is a bonus for Connecticut citizens, as additional resources are applied to solve these issues without any state money or tax increases.

House Bill 5466 represents an opportunity for Connecticut to become known as an economic innovator, and to establish an important differentiator for our state as we seek new ways to encourage new small business creation and job growth.

I urge you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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